

ONLY 180 PER CENT. A YEAR.

NOT NEARLY SO MUCH AS THE MILLER SYNDICATE.

American Mining, Milling and Smelting Co., Vancouver, B. C., however, by the Financial Mercantile Agency, which has its name on the same office door.

Several inquiries have found their way from London to New York recently regarding the history and status of the American Mining, Milling and Smelting Company. It appears from the advice that have been received from the other side that a considerable amount of the stock has been sold to British investors. It appears also that the stock is almost as great an earner of dividends as were the membership certificates in William Franklin Miller's Franklin Syndicate. Miller guaranteed 500 per cent. a year and is now serving a term of ten years in Sing Sing prison.

According to the Glasgow (Scotland) Herald of Dec. 8, 1903, the stock of the American Mining, Milling and Smelting Company pays 180 per cent. a year. Maybe that is why the British public wants to know more about the concern. In a column devoted to mining news there is the following paragraph in the Glasgow Herald:

American Mining, Milling and Smelting—Monthly dividend (No. 30) at the rate of 15 per cent. per month will be paid to all holders of the ordinary shares on the European register, on and after Dec. 15, at the office of the company, 10 Coleman street, London, E. C.

This paragraph caught the eye of a well known investor in London, and he learned on inquiry at the London office that the company had properties consisting of gold, silver and copper mines, smelters, crushers and other operating machinery in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Mexico and Utah. He also learned that the capital stock of the company was \$1,000,000, "fully subscribed and paid up," divided into 750,000 shares of common stock of the par value of \$1 a share, and 100,000 shares of preferred stock at \$5 a share.

This particular Britisher is always willing to take a reasonable chance on an investment proposition, but he wants to be fairly sure that he's going to get a decent return for his money. Therefore he wrote to a well known mining engineer in Colorado to find out what the engineer knew about the American Mining, Milling and Smelting Company. The Colorado man first went to the office of the Secretary of State of Colorado and found that no such company was incorporated under the laws of that State, nor was its certificate as a foreign corporation on file. Then he inquired from such persons as he thought would be likely to know about the location of any Colorado properties belonging to the company. He couldn't find out that the company owned any properties in the State, but that isn't proof positive, of course, that the company does not own mining claims in Colorado.

About this time a New York New York railroad man was called to the wonderful dividends which the common stock of the American Mining, Milling and Smelting Company was paying, and he thought he'd like to know something about the company. Therefore he wrote to the London office for information on Jan. 7.

DEAR SIR: Answering your letter of Dec. 23, 1903, we are not aware of any stock at present available or on sale. The company is a closed corporation and the stock is held privately. Yours faithfully, J. M. Miller, Secretary.

For the American Mining, Milling and Smelting Company.

WESTON & CO., European Agents.

The head of the sheet on which this letter was written gave the information, however, that the New York man did not possess. It stated that the officers of the company were James Reid, president and treasurer; W. Matthews, general manager; J. Edwards, consulting engineer, and H. Reid, secretary. The letterhead also stated that the company was incorporated in the State of New York, and that it had an office at 75 Wall street, and that it had an office at St. Louis at 313 Commercial Building.

When this man got to the office, he found a particular "bunch" of anything, he wants it badly, and he concluded that he was going to know more about the American Mining, Milling and Smelting Company, and he got some of the stock, if he found he really wanted it, or bust. Therefore, he took a run around to the New York office. On the directors' list, he found the name of the company had rooms on the fifth floor. When he got into the elevator and told the man who ran the car what he wanted, the man replied:

"There's a mistake in that hall directory. The American Mining, Milling and Smelting Company is on the fourth floor, in the office of the financial Mercantile Agency. You want to see a man named Hickman."

The title Financial Mercantile Agency had a familiar ring to the ears of the New York man, and he concluded, before pursuing his investigations any further, to try to recall where he had heard of that concern before. So he went back to his office and decided, while trying to recall something about the agency, that he'd write to the concern for information about the American Mining, Milling and Smelting Company. In reply to his letter he got the finest thing ever in the way of a report, which, among other things, stated:

We consider this proposition one of the best propositions that have been made for a long time, and we predict that it will continue to be a big dividend payer. The stock is largely held in Great Britain, France and Belgium. The largest stockholders are the directors. The latest prices at which shares have been sold are as follows: Shares of \$50.00, \$100.00, \$150.00, \$200.00, \$250.00, \$300.00, \$350.00, \$400.00, \$450.00, \$500.00, \$550.00, \$600.00, \$650.00, \$700.00, \$750.00, \$800.00, \$850.00, \$900.00, \$950.00, \$1,000.00.

The investigating New Yorker, when he struck the item "traveling and office expenses," \$30,175.25, thought that there must have been a heap of traveling done for the company by somebody during the past year, but what did that matter so long as there was a net profit of over \$2,000,000? The report, looked like the real thing, but, just to make sure of it, he asked for a report on the company from a financial agency which he had known to be the Financial Mercantile Agency. From the other agency he got a very much shorter report, which was as follows:

"We're trying to sell stock recently on the Continent. Looked upon with grave suspicion."

This last report didn't seem to be such a really hot stuff as that supplied by the Financial Mercantile Agency, and so the New Yorker concluded to make a little investigation of that concern. He got a friend who is more or less familiar with each work to help him out. The friend concluded that the best place to find out something about the Financial Mercantile Agency ought to be at its own office.

Company. Underneath that is this: "Financial Review." The last sign on the canal revived old memories. The investigator had heard of that before, and one of the men connected with it, of the name of Blackmer, is not unknown to the police. Entering the office, the investigator found the face of a young boy in a peephole in the glass paneled partition looking out of a small space, which is probably called the front office. When the caller entered, the lad's face opened to emit the following:

"What can I do for you, sir?"

"I'd like to see Mr. Reid," was the reply. "Mr. Reid? I guess I don't know him," said the lad.

"Why he's the president of the American Mining, Milling and Smelting Company," replied the caller.

"Oh!" said the boy. "Well, I guess he's in London. The main office of this company is in London. This is only the branch office. Mr. Hickman has charge of that. Mr. William C. Hickman, and you want to see him."

"Who's Mr. Hickman?" asked the caller.

"He runs the Financial Mercantile Agency," was the answer, "and he's the New York agent for the American Mining, Milling and Smelting Company. He's not in now. He's in and out all day. You might find him in about 5 o'clock, and then again you might not. But if you make an appointment, he'll surely be here to meet you."

The investigator didn't make an appointment, but he did call on Inspector McCluskey at Police Headquarters. At the mention of William C. Hickman and the Financial Mercantile Agency, Inspector McCluskey beamed as he would at the mention of the name of an old friend.

"I think we've got both Hickman and his agency on our list," said the inspector. "Let's see what the records contain, anyway."

The first entry showed that William C. Hickman had been convicted in Boston in 1884 of the crime of extortion and fined \$50. Following the course of the years, the Detective Bureau records show that in 1888 Hickman drifted into Canada, swindling Canadians out of \$50,000, and then, in August of that year, having lost all of his money, he got back to New York, and way out of town. In 1890, according to the police records, a man of the name of William Evans, who bore a striking resemblance to Hickman, arrived in St. Louis, supposedly from Australia.

Shortly after he arrived there, a number of shipments of foreign goods were received by him, and which from time to time, he advanced from St. Louis banks. Finally he secured from the Merchants' Bank of St. Louis, now the Merchants' LaSalle Bank, an advance of \$20,000 on supposed consignment of dyestuffs. Having got the money Evans left town, and when the barrels of supposed dyestuffs were opened they were found to contain only cheap coloring matter. There is a person now in New York, the credit man of one of the largest banks in the world, who was employed by the St. Louis bank when it was swindled, and who, according to Inspector McCluskey, identified Hickman as William Evans.

Some sort of a settlement was made with the bank, and Evans was not prosecuted. In the course of time Hickman found his way to New York and with a man named Reeves, started a new business, called the Financial Mercantile Agency, with headquarters at 35 Nassau street. That concern had a memorable existence. According to the police records, it was run out of the same kind of rackets as the Financial Mercantile Agency gave to the American Mining, Milling and Smelting Company to some of the most notorious stock-rich engineers that ever did business in New York.

According to Inspector McCluskey's records, it gave a letter voucher for Daniels & Co., which arrived at the office of the Financial Mercantile Agency. It did the same thing for F. A. Rogers & Co., bucket shop keepers at 28 Wall street, the members of which outfit were arrested and fined by the police. The Sheriff seized whatever he could find in their offices.

But probably the best recommendation ever sent out by the Bankers' and Manufacturers' Mercantile Agency was that received by J. M. Fisher & Co. and the Cobb-Everett Company of Boston, two concerns which were in the same building and swindled the dear public, according to the estimate of the Post Office Department, out of not far from \$300,000 in a little over a year.

On the same floor with Baxter & Co. and adjoining are the offices of B. B. Egan & Co. Mr. Vestner said that he understood Egan & Co., at times handled a good deal of the business of Baxter & Co., but that otherwise they were not connected. He thought a statement of some sort would be forthcoming on Monday.

The assignee said that Mr. Baxter lives in Pittsburgh, but had been in town yesterday morning. He thought he'd let it again. He knew that Mr. Vestner lived somewhere west of Ninety-third street, and in an apartment house, and that Mr. Lipp lived out on Long Island. He was asked if the correct address was Ninety-third street, and he said yes, and an office boy responded for him that they were so kept, but under lock and key. The office boy was asked why this was, and he said:

"Why, sure, we keep the addresses locked up. There is a lot of rood touchers in this bunch and it would be dead easy to get money if they knew where to find 'em."

The offices take the whole front of 31 Broadway and are divided into a number of rooms, the largest of which is the telegraph and telephone exchange. There were telegraph instruments for seven loops of private wire, which puts this office in contact with the various correspondents of the country over the coast. The office is 30,000 miles of wire and, as Mr. McIntyre said, it cost Baxter & Co. \$300,000 a year to maintain them.

Mr. McIntyre said that Mr. Baxter & Co. had a private office with the company, and that Mr. McIntyre said that the firm of E. S. Smathers & Co. had conducted in New York office, and that he had been in the equipment, a brokerage business until a year ago when Mr. Smathers retired and bought many racehorses. He is now in Europe.

Baxter & Co. held no membership in any of the exchanges in New York city, doing their business through brokers on the New York stock exchange. The company had understood that the company had memberships on the exchanges of New Orleans and Atlanta. The members of the company were not known to Wall Street.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 30.—A. B. Baxter & Co. have been losing heavily for the last three weeks, losing something as much as \$100,000 a day. The company has lost all over the South, 125 in all, and did an immense business in cotton, especially in the middle South.

COP SURPRISES BURGLARS.

Follows Four Who Broke Into a Saloon and Catches One.

Edward Schonek, 28 years old, of 662 East Fourteenth street, was arraigned before Magistrate Whitman yesterday morning on a charge of attempted burglary. He was arrested at 3 o'clock in the morning by Policemen Barry of the East Twenty-second street station, after a chase to the roof of A. Hupfel's saloon at 280 Avenue B.

Three of the men were stationed to watch while the fourth broke open the door, and Barry lay low until they had got inside. Then he followed them up the stairs to the roof with Barry at their heels.

Barry caught Schonek and held him in spite of a heavy blow from one of his companions. The others got away.

Magistrate Whitman held Schonek at \$1,000 bail.

Mayor McClellan Marries His First Couple.

Mayor McClellan performed his first marriage ceremony yesterday at the City Hall. The principals were William Hudson Clarke, a young banker of 325 West Eighty-third street, and Mrs. Virginia B. Moore of 44 West Fifty-seventh street. Mr. Clarke's father and Mrs. Moore's brother were witnesses. Mayor McClellan didn't kiss the bride.

GREENE DECLINED \$5,000,000.

Wanted \$5,000,000 From the Rockefeller for His Mining Properties.

CANANEA, Mexico, Jan. 30.—Col. W. C. Greene, president of the Greene Consolidated Copper Company, has advised his associates that he has declined an offer of \$5,000,000 from the Rockefeller family for his interest in the company, but declined it. Col. Greene says that he offered to sell for \$5,000,000, but the Rockefeller thought the price was too excessive, and all negotiations have ended.

COTTON DID UP BAXTER & CO.

WHICH WAY THEIR CUSTOMERS RET LEFT IN DOUBT.

Cotton Goes Up, and After a Call on Itself for More Margin, and Also, Apparently on Its Customers, the Concern Goes Down and the Customers Go Somewhat.

A. B. Baxter & Co., a \$300,000 corporation, which dealt in stocks, bonds and cotton at 61 Broadway, assigned yesterday for the benefit of creditors to George J. Vestner, whose counsel are Cantor, Adams & McIntyre. The assignment was said by the assignee to be due to the failure of the company to secure margins sufficient from its Southern customers to meet the sharp advance in the price of cotton.

Various statements as to the firm, its business, its members and its past were made by the assignee, by Mr. McIntyre, of counsel to the assignee, and by a clerk in the office of the company. The members of the firm, according to the assignee, were A. B. Baxter of Pittsburgh, president; W. V. Vensal of this city, vice-president, and Felix Lipp of Union Course, L. I., treasurer. These three men constitute the board of directors of the company, but are its largest stockholders, who are Pittsburgh men. Mr. McIntyre made this statement:

"The firm of A. B. Baxter & Co. was incorporated in this State in December, 1902. It occupies offices which were at one time those of E. E. Smathers, the well known horseman, who conducted a stock business there. The company had one branch near Atlanta and had correspondents in fifty cities throughout the country, who were reached by means of leased wires, the rental of which was about \$300,000 a year. About two weeks ago, owing to the sharp rise in cotton, which caught unprepared all the clients of the company who were speculating in cotton, the stockholders of the company paid in an assessment of over 80 per cent. on their stock, or \$246,000 in cash. The further advances during the first of this week led the company to call for additional margins from its customers, and as these were not forthcoming it decided to-day, owing to the extraordinary advance, to assign, in order that it might be determined exactly whether or not it is solvent. We have had no time to examine the books as yet, but it is my impression that the company will be able to resume."

Mr. McIntyre was asked what was the exact business of the firm and whether it had at any time and through its business ventures. He said:

"In July last a rival of this company informed the Western Union Telegraph Company that Baxter & Co. were doing business without the consent of various exchanges. We understood that the Western Union contemplated cutting off our service, and we were forced to take steps. When the Western Union put in its answer, there was no intimation that it intended to cut off our part and the injunction was continued."

Assignee Vestner was found at the office of the company after a gang of clerks and other employees had been driven out. He said that he was out. He explained the long delay in receiving the reporters by saying that he thought they had got and that he had been out. He said that he didn't know any of the directors, but after thinking for a few moments he recalled the fact that Mr. Vestner, who is now in the office, was the director and officers of the company. He said that his understanding was that the company had only the one branch, at Atlanta, and that it carried on various brokerage concerns throughout the United States, acting as a sort of clearing house in that respect.

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SHORE ICE-LOCKED.

Navigation to Many Connecticut Ports Shut Off—Many Vessels in the Ice.

GREENWICH, Conn., Jan. 30.—Navigation in the harbors on the North Shore of Long Island Sound has been suspended for a month, and from present indications seems likely to be closed for four weeks longer. The oldest boatman can remember nothing like it, and fishermen and others who earn their living on the Sound waters have been idle so long that their families are beginning to feel hardship and deprivation.

Off Captain's Island there are twenty vessels of various kinds and nine tugboats fast in the thick ice, which reaches from the island to the main shore, a distance of three miles. The rivers emptying into the Sound are frozen solid. Steamboat navigation has been suspended between several of the towns and New York City for a month, and the factories have been greatly inconvenienced in shipping and receiving freight. Coal dealers are running short of supply owing to so many barges being frozen in and must now depend on receiving consignments by rail.

F. G. Mead of Cos Cob, who had a barge fast off the mouth of the Mianus River, hired a large force of men to saw and chop a channel through two foot ice for half a mile, and a tug was then able to tow it to the wharf. Captain Frutkin of the steamboat Gen. Putnam has tied his boat to the dock and gone to Florida to await the reopening of navigation. It is the first winter in years that the ice has not run regularly between Greenwich and New York City. Edwin F. Studwell of the propeller Glenville has endeavored to keep his boat running between Port Chester and New York, but has been compelled to give up many trips. The ice has greatly interfered with the oyster business, and only a few small boats are able to get out. The ice has been secured and the price has doubled.

LAWYER ACCUSED OF FORGERY.

John L. O'Donnell, arrested in connection with the "Bennett Will Case."

John L. O'Donnell, a lawyer of 181 East 118th street, who was until a short time ago employed as adjuster by the Consolidated Insurance Corporation, 78 William street, was arrested yesterday on a charge of forgery. He is accused of having forged the signature of Dr. John Goethals of 661 Carroll street, to a statement of the injuries sustained by Henry A. Tyler of Brooklyn, who was run down by a wagon of the American News Company in April last.

Tyler's claim for damages was put in by Edward F. Glover, a claim agent, and paid by the accident corporation in which the news company carries insurance. It was O'Donnell's duty to investigate such claims. He reported, it is alleged, that he saw Dr. Goethals and secured a signed statement from him. The physician denies having ever seen him or having signed any such statement. He is now in the hands of the police, and his \$2,000 bond for examination on Monday.

Edward Glover, who figured in the case, is in no way connected with the case. He lived at Richmond Hill, and belonged to several yachting and athletic clubs. When his arrest was caused by the General Insurance Corporation, he was in the hands of the police, and he was released on \$2,000 bond for examination on Monday.

A lawyer who is suspected of having been implicated with O'Donnell and Glover in the alleged frauds has fled from the city.

QUOTED IN BRYAN'S BEHALF.

Famous Phrase of Cleveland Used in the Bennett Will Case.

NEW HAVEN, Jan. 30.—In an argument in support of his contention that he should not be removed as an executor of the Bennett will, counsel for William J. Bryan to-day quoted Grover Cleveland.

"It is a condition which confronts us, not a theory."

The answer was made out by the lawyers of Mr. Bryan, but the latter's name was signed to it. In reviewing why Mr. Bryan should not be disturbed, his lawyers say:

"The executor is to be removed, if at all, not for a punishment, because it is theoretically possible that the estate may be a common one. Mr. Bryan is in no danger to the estate. In classic phrase, it is a condition which confronts us and not a theory."

Friends of Mr. Bryan have said to-night that the latter did not know anything about the wording of the answer, as he would not have allowed Mr. Cleveland's famous utterance to be used in that manner. His lawyers to amend the answer when he learns of the quotation.

ERIE DETECTIVE SHOTS BOY.

With Two Companions Lad Was Trying to Steal Brass From Erie Yards.

James C. McKenna, an Erie Railroad detective of Jersey City, was arrested there yesterday for shooting James Condon, 18 years old, of 177 Twelfth street, in the back while chasing him across the railroad yards at Twelfth and Provost streets.

The bullet, which penetrated the lungs, was fired from a .38 Smith & Wesson. The boy may die of the wound.

Condon went to the yards with fifteen-year-old Michael Shaughnessy and a 12-year-old boy, who called John Smith because they couldn't master the spelling of his real name, to steal brasswork from a disused engine house, where they hid their tools and where they looked out for trespassers and juvenile thieves ran after the boys and they scampered away.

They were caught by a patrolman, but the boy ran rapidly and McKenna, finding that he could not gain on him, drew his revolver and fired five times. He says he shot the boy in the back, and that he tripped as he pulled the trigger the last time and accidentally hit the boy. Patrick Vickers and John Lyons, Erie detectives, who saw the shooting, were arrested and held as witnesses.

TRAIN RACE WITH DEATH.

Gen. Strong Failed to Reach Chicago Before His Wife Died.

CHICAGO, Jan. 30.—While her husband was speeding across the continent from California in an effort to reach her bedside, Mrs. Henry Strong died from a stroke of paralysis. The news of her serious illness reached Gen. Strong in Santa Barbara, where he was spending the season of the winter, and he immediately wired the telegram he hired a special train on the Santa Fe Railroad and raced over the country at record-breaking time.

At 9:30 last night, the time of Mrs. Strong's death, a telegram conveying the news of his bereavement was sent to Mr. Strong. It is expected that he will arrive in the city Monday night.

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TO SELL CONGO FREE STATE?

King Leopold's Visit to Berlin Starts Speculation.

LONDON, Jan. 30.—The Continental press has been displaying much interest during the past week in the visit of King Leopold of Belgium to Berlin. It has been suggested that he is seeking an ally against the forces which are pressing him to grant the monopoly that is crushing the natives in the Congo Free State.

The speculation, however, as to whether King Leopold would sell the Congo Free State to Germany, which would naturally be tempted by the prospect of such a vast fertile dependency, but concludes that the change would probably be too great to be attempted.

It seems certain, however, that when more pressing great issues are settled, the matter of the Congo Free State will be taken up. For some time past there has been a steady working of public opinion by means of the press, and the matter has been discussed in Parliament, and King Leopold has been considerably perturbed thereby. He would probably be willing to shift the trouble to other shoulders if he could get his money back.

SHAVE THE 'OLD WOMEN.

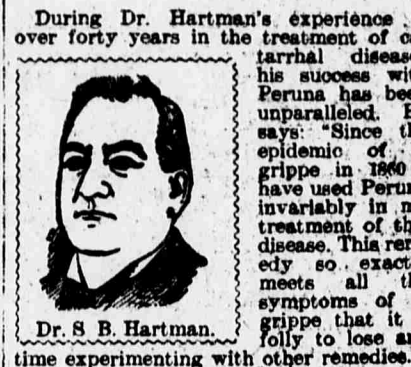
Authorities of a Home in Vienna Enforce the Rule Despite Protests.

LONDON, Jan. 30.—The authorities of a home in Vienna for old men and women, having decided that the faces of men and women should be shaved, 3,000 old men, despite their protests, have been depilated of any beard or mustache they possessed.

We Can Escape Dread La Grippe If We Eradicate Our Catarrh.

Our Reporter's Talk With Dr. Hartman Concerning Peru-na and La Grippe.

Peru-na Prevents Catarrhal Diseases.



Dr. S. B. Hartman.

When to Begin Treatment.

"At the appearance of the first symptoms treatment should be begun at once, and the patient should keep strictly to the house for a few days. No treatment, however effective it may be, will always prevent quite a long siege with this disease, but no other medicinal treatment is necessary than Peru-na."

The After Effects of La Grippe.

"People who have had la grippe, the acute stage having passed and their recovery has come to a standstill, are frequently the case, will find in Peru-na exactly the remedy that is suited to their case. It invigorates the whole system, restores the appetite and produces natural sleep."

Grippe Causes Other Diseases.

"Even after pneumonia or consumption has begun to develop it is not too late to expect a perfect cure from Peru-na without any other treatment whatever. Many physicians are using it extensively in their practice, at the same time a vast number of people are buying it at the drug stores and treating themselves, and the result is, if there is another remedy which is the equal of Peru-na for la grippe it is unknown to me."—S. B. Hartman, M. D.

Peru-na, the Family Safeguard.

J. A. Stalle, Peabody, Kan., writes:

"Four of my family were almost down with the grippe, and my mother had been down with it for some time. She took Peru-na and is able to go up now most of the time. She is sixty-four years old. I can't praise Peru-na enough. My two little boys, one three and the other six years of age, get for Peru-na whenever they get to feeling badly. We use it for almost everything."

Prominent Cures.

Among the prominent men and women who have been cured of la grippe by Peru-na are:

Hon. John H. Caldwell, a prominent member of the Louisiana State Legislature of Robeline, La.

Mrs. Henrietta A. S. Marsh, President Women's Benevolent Association, 237 Carroll Park Terrace, Woodlawn, Chicago, Ill.

Hon. T. Simmons, United States Marshal, Mobile, Ala.

Mr. Henry DeWitt, maker and inventor of Band Instruments, 1441 S. 9th street, Philadelphia, Pa.

WHITAKER WRIGHT BURIED.

VILLAGERS HE HAD BEFRIENDED STAND AT THE GRAVE.

Suicide-Felon's Marble Palace Reopened for the Closing Scenes—His End Appeals to London's Sporting Public as a "Game Finish to a Hard Fight."

SPECIAL CABLE DISPATCH TO THE SUN.

LONDON, Jan. 30.—While there is a complete absence of anything like sentimental sympathy for Whitaker Wright, there is no doubt that his melodramatic suicide has appealed widely to a kind of sporting instinct in the London atmosphere.

A great number of Englishmen say his suicide was a game finish to a hard fight. Otherwise the only sentiment generally expressed is that of regret that the man